

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

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R 020927Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6341

INFO AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

CINCPAC

CINCPACREPPHIL

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 7563

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E O 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, ENRG, ETRD, RP, RO

SUBJ: ACTIVATION OF PHILIPPINE-ROMANIAN RELATIONS

BEGIN SUMMARY: ROMANIAN GOVERNMENT NOW APPEARS TO BE MOVING QUICKLY TO GIVE CONTENT TO DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH GOP. VISITS BY AG SEC TANCO TO BUCHAREST AND GOR AMBASSADOR TO MANILA IN JUNE HAVE EXPLORED AREAS FOR FUTURE COOPERATION. THIS DEVELOPMENT HAS GIVEN RISE TO SOME CONCERN AMONG FILIPINO FRIENDS OF US, PARTICULARLY WITH RESPECT TO PETROLEUM INDUSTRY. END SUMMARY.

1. THERE HAVE BEEN SEVERAL RECENT INDICATIONS THAT ROMANIA MAY ASSUME VANGUARD POSITION AMONG COMMUNIST STATES IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF MEANINGFUL RELATIONS WITH PHILIPPINES.

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2. AFTER ESTABLISHMENT OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS BETWEEN

PHILIPPINES AND ROMANIA IN MARCH 1972, AMBASSADOR NICOLAE FINANTU, WHO IS RESIDENT IN TOKYO, PRESENTED CREDENTIALS TO PRESIDENT MARCOS ON JUNE 20, 1973. WHILE HIS FIRST VISIT, WHICH LASTED A WEEK, DID NOT ATTRACT MUCH PUBLIC ATTENTION EXCEPT FOR PRESENTATION CEREMONY, WE GATHER HE WAS IN FACT VERY BUSY. FINANTU WAS ACCOMPANIED BY GHEORGHE VASILE, REPORTEDLY AN OFFICIAL WITH ROMANIAN MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE. ACCORDING PRESS ACCOUNTS OF VISIT, FINANTU DISCUSSED PLANS TO SET UP INDUSTRIAL AND TRADE EXHIBITION IN MANILA AND INVITED TRADE SEC TROADIO QUIAZON TO HEAD VISIT OF PHIL TRADE MISSION TO BUCHAREST.

3. PRESS ALSO REPORTED THAT SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES ARTURO TANCO, DURING VISIT TO BUCHAREST IN EARLY JUNE, INVITED ROMANIAN PARTICIPATION IN OIL EXPLORATION IN PHILS AND AGREED WITH GOR PETROLEUM MINISTER THAT PHILS WILL SEND OIL TECHNICIANS TO ROMANIA, PRESUMABLY FOR TRAINING. TANCO SAID TO HAVE INFORMED PRESIDENT MARCOS THAT PRESIDENT CEAUSESCU EXPRESSED INTENTION TO SEND GROUP OF ROMANIAN PETROLEUM EXPLORATION TECHNICIANS TO PHILS AND EMPHASIZED DESIRE TO BROADEN PHIL-ROMANIAN ECONOMIC RELATIONS. CEAUSESCU ALSO REPORTED TO HAVE EXTENDED INVITATION FOR PRESIDENT MARCOS TO VISIT ROMANIA.

4. IN JUNE 29 CONVERSATION WITH CHARGE, UNDERSECRETARY OF NATURAL RESOURCES JOSE LEVISTE CONFIRMED EARLIER REPORTS THAT TANCO HAD INVITED ROMANIAN PARTICIPATION IN OIL EXPLORATION AND FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF PETROLEUM INDUSTRY IN PHILS. LEVISTE ALSO SAID IN CONNECTION WITH NEW AMBASSADOR'S VISIT HERE IT HAS BEEN AGREED THAT A PHILIPPINE TRADE MISSION WILL VISIT ROMANIA IN JULY. IT HAS NOT YET BEEN DECIDED WITHIN GOP WHETHER TO PLACE MAIN EMPHASIS, ON THE ASKING SIDE, ON PETROCHEMICAL IMPORTS INCLUDING FERTILIZER OR ON PRESSING FOR ROMANIAN TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND OTHER PARTICIPATION IN OIL EXPLORATION. LEVISTE SAID IN THE FORMER CASE THAT TANCO MIGHT RETURN BUT THAT IN THE LATTER EVENT HE HIMSELF WOULD PROBABLY HEAD THE MISSION.

5. LEVISTE SEEMED TO HAVE BEEN VERY IMPRESSED BY WHATEVER CONTACTS HE MAY HAVE HAD WITH ROMANIANS OR BY HIS KNOWLEDGE

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OF TANCO'S DISCUSSIONS. HE COMMENTED "THEY MAY BE COMMUNISTS BUT THEY BEHAVE LIKE CAPITALISTS."

6. COMMENT: INFORMATION PASSED ON BY LEVISTE DOES NOT ADVANCE VERY MUCH IMPRESSIONS WE HAVE GAINED PREVIOUSLY, BUT HE MADE "DISCLOSURE" IN CONTEXT OF A LONGER CONVERSATION RECITING PROBLEMS AND ANXIETIES OF THE TECHNOCRAT ELEMENT WITHIN GOP, WHICH HE BELIEVES SHOULD CONTINUE TO BE "NATURAL ALLY"

OF USG AND OF AMERICAN BUSINESS (OTHER ASPECTS REPORTED BY
MEMCON). LEVISTE IS ONE OF THE NUMEROUS "BRIDGES" BETWEEN
THESE TWO ELEMENTS, HAVING AN OFF-AND-ON BUT SOMETIMES
VERY DIRECT ASSOCIATION WITH CALTEX.
HAMILTON

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